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(54) **FOLDABLE LECTERN ASSEMBLY**

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(51) **Int. Cl.**

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A47B 19/06	(2006.01)
A47B 23/04	(2006.01)
A47B 97/08	(2006.01)
A47B 19/08	(2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**

CPC ***A47B 23/001*** (2013.01); ***A47B 19/06*** (2013.01); *A47B 19/08* (2013.01); *A47B 97/08* (2013.01); *A47B 2023/049* (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**

CPC .. A47B 23/001; A47B 23/043; A47B 23/04; A47B 2023/049; A47B 97/08; A47B 97/04; A47B 19/08

USPC 248/441.1, 456, 459–460, 465.1, 188.6, 248/188.8, 371; 108/9, 157.1, 108.25, 27, 108/43, 156, 108, 162; 206/45.23, 45.24, 206/320, 576, 755

See application file for complete search history.

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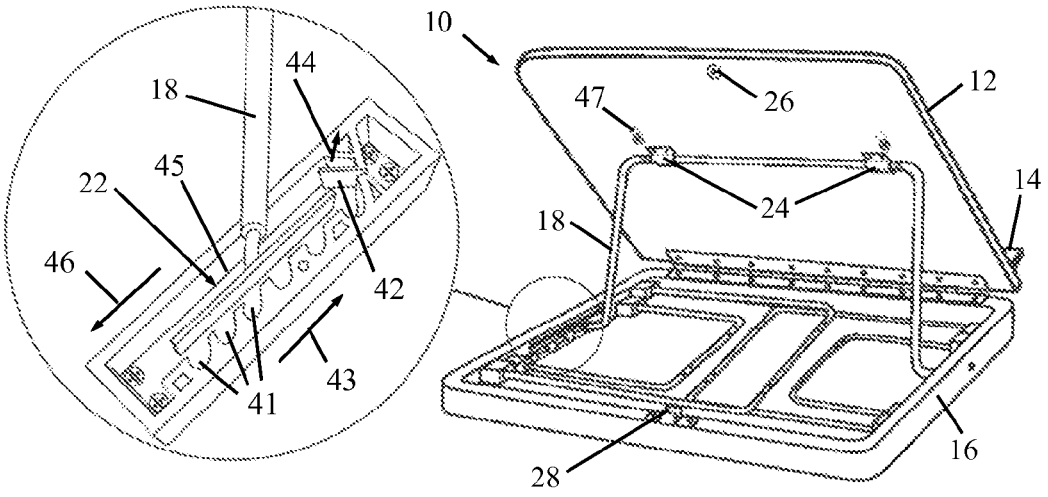
(57) **ABSTRACT**

A foldable lectern assembly includes a reading material support surface pivotedly connected to a case. A support bar is arranged to support the reading material support surface in inclined and horizontal positions. The foldable lectern assembly has a table top configuration and a standup configuration.

12 Claims, 2 Drawing Sheets



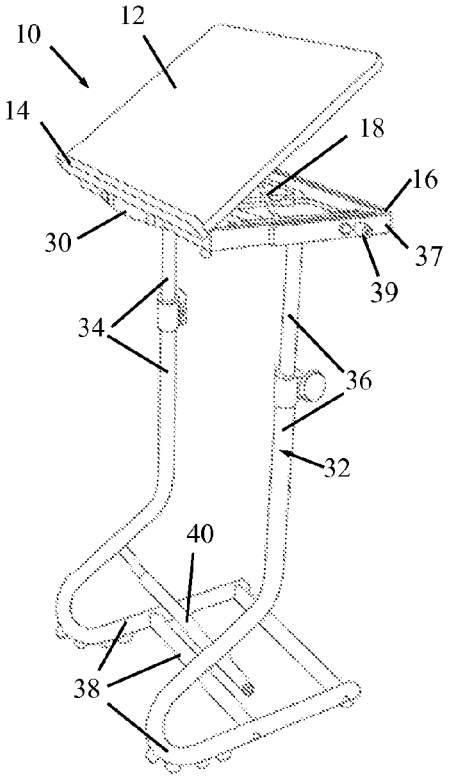


FIG. 1A

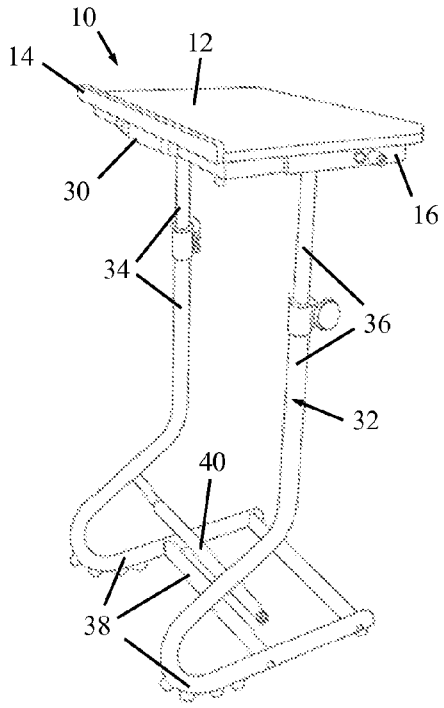


FIG. 1B

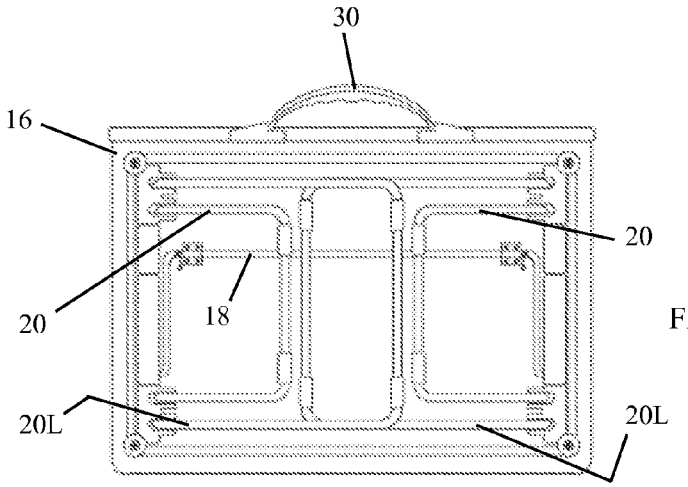


FIG. 2

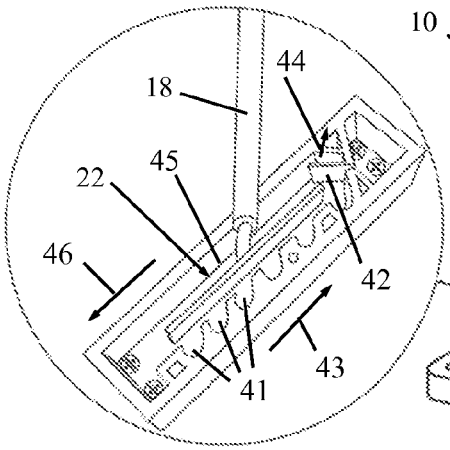


FIG. 3B

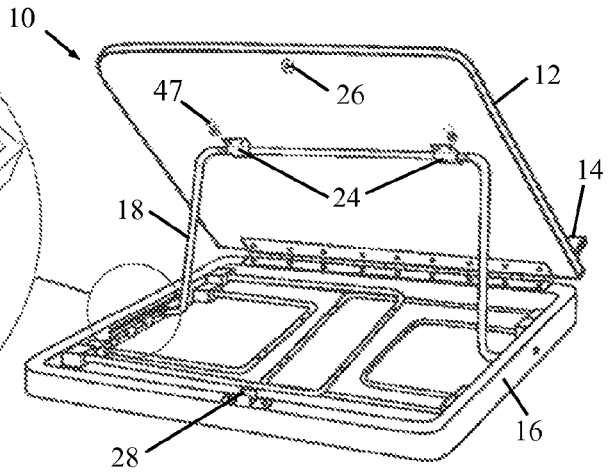


FIG. 3A

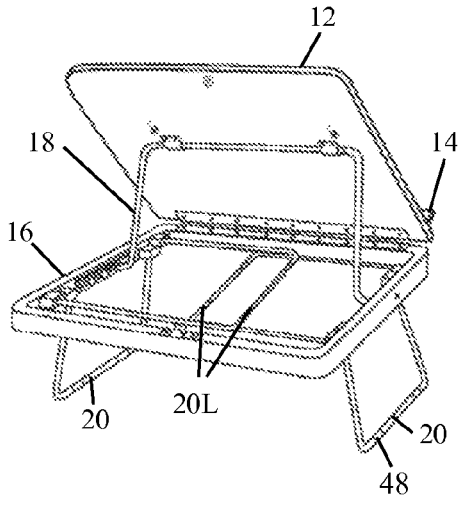


FIG. 4A

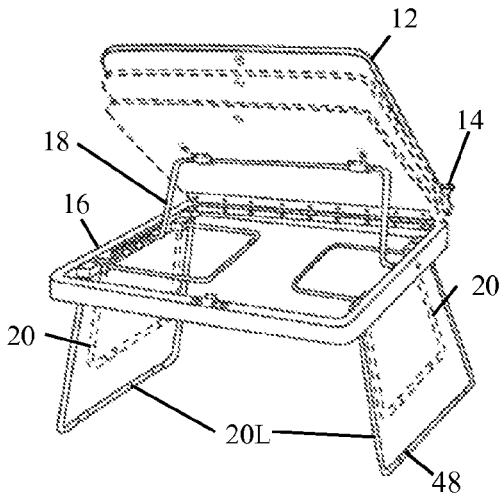


FIG. 4B

FOLDABLE LECTERN ASSEMBLY

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates generally to lecterns for supporting reading material thereupon, and more specifically to a combination foldable and separable lectern that may be selectively configured as a standup lectern assembly or a table top lectern assembly, and is lightweight, and easy to transport, setup and store.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Lecterns are commonly used to provide a supporting surface for books, documents and papers for studying purposes, speeches, presentations, and the like. Some lecterns are suitable to be used by a person standing while others are meant for placing on a table and the like.

Foldable lecterns are known in the art. For example, U.S. Pat. No. 6,325,343 to Flagg describes a combination foldable and separable lectern apparatus, which comprises at least seven foam panels.

U.S. Pat. No. 5,044,595 to Carr describes a collapsible podium utilizing laterally pliable, yet longitudinally rigid panels. The panels are inserted into curved slots in the top, bottom and middle portions. A slotted top and bottom portion is required in each configuration.

U.S. Pat. No. 4,618,120 to Wattles describes a portable tabletop lectern having four side panels. The side panels are slidably received in joining strips. To breakdown, all the pieces are separated.

U.S. Pat. No. 3,056,230 to Brokaw Jr., describes a portable tabletop lectern having four foldable portions, with the top inclined portion comprising multiple sheets, which may be folded to suspend over the back portion.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention seeks to provide an improved foldable lectern assembly, as described more in detail hereinbelow.

There is thus provided in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention a foldable lectern assembly including a reading material support surface including a ledge and being pivotedly connected to a case, a support bar connectable to the reading material support surface and to a portion of the case, wherein the support bar is arranged to support the reading material support surface in inclined and horizontal positions, and in the inclined position an inner volume of the case is open and exposed, support legs disposed in the inner volume of the case and deployable out of the case, and an upright leg assembly including first and second telescoping leg members extending from a common base member which includes a foot rest, the case being removably attachable to the upright leg assembly, the foldable lectern assembly having a table top configuration wherein the foldable lectern assembly is supported by a bottom surface of the case or by the support legs, and the foldable lectern assembly having a standup configuration wherein the foldable lectern assembly is supported by the upright leg assembly.

In accordance with an embodiment of the present invention a carrying handle is attached to a portion of the reading material support surface or the case.

In accordance with an embodiment of the present invention the upright leg assembly is storable in the case.

In accordance with an embodiment of the present invention the support legs include wireframe legs.

In accordance with an embodiment of the present invention the support bar is adjustably mounted in a pair of multi-slot members disposed on opposite sides of the inner volume of the case.

In accordance with an embodiment of the present invention there is a latch for latching the reading material support surface to the case.

In accordance with an embodiment of the present invention there are different sized sets of the support legs.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The present invention will be understood and appreciated more fully from the following detailed description, taken in conjunction with the drawings in which:

FIGS. **1**A and **1**B are simplified pictorial illustrations of a lectern assembly configured as a standup lectern assembly, with a reading material support surface in inclined and horizontal positions, respectively, constructed and operative in accordance with a non-limiting embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. **2** is a simplified illustration of the lectern assembly folded and stored in a carrying case;

FIG. **3**A is a simplified pictorial illustration of the lectern assembly configured as a table top lectern assembly, in accordance with a non-limiting embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. **3**B is an enlarged illustration of a portion of the lectern assembly, showing a multi-slot member for receiving a support bar for the reading material support surface; and

FIGS. **4**A and **4**B are simplified pictorial illustrations of the lectern assembly configured as a table top lectern assembly, in two different height configurations.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF EMBODIMENTS

Reference is now made to FIGS. **1**A-**4**B, which illustrate a lectern assembly **10**, constructed and operative in accordance with a non-limiting embodiment of the present invention.

The foldable lectern assembly **10** includes a reading material support surface **12** with a ledge **14**. The reading material support surface **12** is pivotedly connected to a case **16**. A support bar **18** is connectable to the reading material support surface **12** and to a portion of the case **16**. The support bar **18** can support the reading material support surface **12** in an inclined position (FIGS. **1**A, **3**A, **4**A and **4**B) and in a horizontal position (FIG. **1**B).

In the inclined position, an inner volume of the case **16** is open and exposed. As seen in FIGS. **2**, **3**A, **4**A and **4**B, support legs **20** are disposed in the inner volume of the case **16**. The lectern assembly **10** has a table top configuration, shown in FIGS. **3**A, **4**A and **4**B. In the table top configuration, the foldable lectern assembly **10** is supported by a bottom surface of the case **16** (FIG. **3**A) or by the support legs **20** (FIGS. **4**A and **4**B) deployed out of case **16**. As seen in the illustrated embodiment, the support legs **20** are wireframe legs, and there are different sized sets of the support legs, such as shorter legs **20** and longer legs **20**L. In FIG. **4**A, the shorter legs **20** support the assembly **10**, whereas in FIG. **4**B, the longer legs **20**L support assembly **10**. All the support legs may be provided with rubber grommets **48**, which are non-slip and protect the surface upon which the lectern assembly **10** sits from scratches and the like.

As seen in FIGS. **3**A and **3**B, legs of the support bar **18** are adjustably mounted in a pair of multi-slot members **22** disposed on opposite sides of the inner volume of the case **16**, and a horizontal portion of the support bar **18** may be pivotally attached to the underside of reading material support surface **12** with fasteners **24**. As seen in FIG. **4**B, the reading material support surface **12** may be adjusted to different inclined positions by adjusting the position of the legs of the support bar **18** in multi-slot members **22**. It is noted that in the illustrated embodiment support bar **18** has two legs but the invention can also be carried out with just one leg (e.g., a central leg) in one multi-slot member **22**.

Referring particularly to FIG. **3**B, the present invention provides a simple method of adjusting the legs of the support bar **18** in each of the multi-slot members **22**. The multi-slot member **22** has a row of slots **41** in which the support bar **18** can be received. At one end of the row of slots **41** there is a resilient tongue **42** towards which the support bar **18** can be slid. If the user wishes to move the support bar **18** back to the first slot at the opposite end of the row, the user simply pushes support bar **18** against tongue **42** in the direction of arrow **43**. The tongue **42** gives way and bends back in the direction of arrow **44**. This allows moving the support bar **18** to a smooth channel **45**, substantially parallel to the row of slots **41**. Now the user can quickly move support bar **18** in the direction of arrow **46** back to the first slot at the beginning of the row of slots **41**. The fasteners **24** that support the horizontal portion of the support bar **18** may be provided with biasing devices **47**, such as coil springs, to help push the legs of the support bar **18** into channel **45** after pushing against tongue **42**. The biasing devices **47** may be alternatively placed in other places, such as at the hinge between the surface **12** and the case **16**.

As seen in FIG. **3**A, a latch that includes a pair of latch members **26** and **28** may be provided for latching the reading material support surface **12** to the case **16**. Without limitation, latch members **26** and **28** may be magnetic or snaps or others. As seen in FIGS. **1**A, **1**B and **2**, a carrying handle **30** is attached to a portion of the reading material support surface **12** or the case **16**.

The foldable lectern assembly **10** has a standup configuration, shown in FIGS. **1**A and **1**B. In the standup configuration, foldable lectern assembly **10** is supported by an upright leg assembly **32**. The upright leg assembly **32** includes first and second telescoping leg members **34** and **36**, which extend upwards from a common base member **38** which includes a foot rest **40**. The case **16** is removably attachable to an upper frame **37** at an upper portion of the upright leg assembly **32**, such as by means of fasteners **39** (which may be without limitation, thumbscrews, pins, dowels, etc.). In accordance with an embodiment of the present invention the upright leg assembly **32** is storable in the case **16**.

What is claimed is:

1. A foldable lectern assembly comprising:

a reading material support surface comprising a ledge and being pivotedly connected to a case;

a support bar connectable to said reading material support surface and to a portion of said case, wherein said support bar is arranged to support said reading material support surface in inclined and horizontal positions; and

a multi-slot member comprising a row of slots in which the leg of said support bar is placeable, wherein at one end of the row of slots there is a resilient tongue and the leg of said support bar is moveable past said tongue to a channel, and the leg of said support bar is movable along said channel to an opposite end of the row.

2. The assembly according to claim **1**, wherein in the inclined position of said reading material support surface an inner volume of said case is open and exposed.

3. The assembly according to claim **1**, wherein support legs are disposed in an inner volume of said case and deployable out of said case.

4. The assembly according to claim **3**, further comprising an upright leg assembly comprising first and second telescoping leg members extending from a common base member which comprises a foot rest, said case being removably attachable to said upright leg assembly, said foldable lectern assembly having a table top configuration wherein said foldable lectern assembly is supported by a bottom surface of said case or by said support legs, and said foldable lectern assembly having a standup configuration wherein said foldable lectern assembly is supported by said upright leg assembly.

5. The assembly according to claim **1**, wherein a carrying handle is attached to a portion of said reading material support surface or said case.

6. The assembly according to claim **4**, wherein said upright leg assembly is storable in said case.

7. The assembly according to claim **3**, wherein said support legs comprise wireframe legs.

8. The assembly according to claim **1**, further comprising a latch for latching said reading material support surface to said case.

9. The assembly according to claim **1**, comprising different sized sets of said support legs.

10. The assembly according to claim **1**, wherein said row of slots and said channel are both located in a common depression formed in said multi-slot member.

11. The assembly according to claim **10**, wherein said row of slots and said channel are separated from each other by a divider that extends parallel to said row of slots.

12. The assembly according to claim **10**, wherein the leg of said support bar does not move over said tongue during movement in said channel.

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